

Message Text

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TAGS: PGOV, PINS, PFOR, AU

SUBJ: PRESS REACTION TO AUSTRIAN DECISION ON SCHOENAU

1. REPERCUSSIONS FROM THE AUSTRIAN DECISION TO CLOSE THE SCHOENAU TRANSIT CAMP CONTINUED TO DOMINATE THE FRONT PAGES IN ALL AUSTRIAN DAILIES OF OCT. 3, WITH ATTENTION FOCUSED ON THE KREISKY-MEIR MEETING,

THE CHANCELLOR'S SUBSEQUENT PRESS CONFERENCE AND HIS PROPOSAL TO PUT SCHOENAU UNDER THE UNHCR.

2. GOVERNMENT'S ORGAN, ARBEITER-ZEITUNG, MAINTAINS THAT KREISKY-MEIR MEETING WAS GOOD INASMUCH AS INTERNATIONAL MASS MEDIA WERE FORCED TO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO AUSTRIAN STAND: QTE IN ANY CASE, MEETING OF TWO CHIEFS OF GOVERNMENT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO INTERNATIONAL MASS MEDIA DEVOTING MORE ATTENTION TO AUSTRIAN VIEWPOINT. CHANCELLOR WAS ABLE TO EXPLAIN HIS ATTITUDE BEFORE WHOLE WORLD SO THAT INCONSIDERATE, ARRAGANT AND INSULTING JUDGEMENTS OF FEIRST FEW DAYS CAN NOW BE REVISED. WORLD WAS MADE TO REALIZE NOT ONLY WHAT AUSTRIA HAS ALREADY DONE FOR MIGRANT JEWS, BUT ALSO THAT EXODUS WILL NOT BE OBSTRUCTED. LET US HOPE THAT WORLD WILL NOW UNDERSTAND BETTER THAT FOUR HUMAN LIVES WERE MORE IMPORTANT TO BRUNO KREISKY THAN QUESTION OF PRESTIGE. UNQTE.

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3. SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG: QTE THE TALK OF ISRAELI PREMIER GOLDA MEIR AND CHANCELLOR KREISKY HAS HELPED CLARIFY THEIR POSITIONS ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO RAPPROACHEMENT ... WHEN THE WAVE OF INTERNATIONAL CENSURE SUBSIDES, AUSTRIA'S INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE WILL DEPEND

PRIMARILY ON WHETHER WE CAN LIVE UP TO OUR TASK (OF PROTECTING JEWS IN TRANSIT AND KEEPING TERRORISTS IN CHECK). UNQTE.

4. INDEPENDENT MASS-CIRCULATION TABLOID KRONEN-ZEITUNG EDITOR-IALIZED: QTE WHENEVER TWO AUSTRIANS MEET, THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT SCHWECHAT, SCHOENAU AND WORLD'S RACTION. THER IS GREAT DIVERSITY OF OPINIONS. BUT SOME PEOPLE ALREADY TAKE REFUGE IN UNFORTUNATE FORMULA OF A CONSPIRACY OF WORLD'S JEWRY OR TO HTE SUAVE OPINION THAT AUSTRIA NEED NOT EXPOSE HERSELF TO ANY DANGER FOR SAKE OF JEWS. WORLD HAS RIGHT TO CRITICIZE US AND TO PROTEST. WE CLAIM SAME RIGHT. HOWEVER, HATE PROPAGANDA ACHIEVES VERY OPPOSIT OF WHAT SHOULD HAPPEN. WHEN PASSIONS ARE AROUSED IN POLITICS, COMMON SENSE IS DEFEATED IN MOST CASES. UNQTE.

5. ALSO IN KRONEN-ZEITUNG, AUSTRIA'S MOST WIDELY READ COLUMNIST STABERL (PEN-NAME FOR RICHARD NIMMERRICHTER) WROTE: QTE AUSTRIA HAS ARAB APPROVAL AT THE MOMENT. (ARAB) REVIEWS OF OUR CONDUCT WERE GOOD ALREADY IN JULY WHEN WE SIGNED PRO-ARAB RESOLUTION IN UN SECURITY COUNCIL. HOWEVER, THIS DID NOT HELP US AT ALL. IT WAS WRONG AND NAIVE TO ASSUME THAT A COUNTRY SUPPORTING ARABS IN UNITED NATIONS WOULD BE SPARED ARAB TERROR IN RETURN. ARABS NOW BELIEVE THAT AUSTRIA'S DECISION TO CLOSE DOWN SCHOENAU CAMP MEANS THAT AUSTRIA WILL PROHIBIT ALL TRANSIT OF SOVIET JEWS ON THEIR WAY TO ISRAEL. THIS, AND NOT CLOSURE OF CAMP, IS (REAL) REASON FOR ARABS' PRO-AUSTRIAN REJOICING ... IN REALITY, HOWEVER, AUSTRIA CANNOT AND WILL NOT PROHIBIT TRANSIT OF MIGRANTS FROM SOVIET UNION... SO IT MIGHT HAPPEN SOON THAT ARABS, NOW RASHLY APPLAUDING US, WILL CHARGE US WITH TREASON. INSTEAD OF HAVING CLEVERLY SOLVED A DELICATE PROBLEM, WE SHALL THEN FIND OURSELVES SEATED BETWEEN TWO STOOLS. UNQTE.

6. CHIEF EDITOR OTTO SCHULMEISTER COMPLAINED IN DIE PRESSE: QTE IN 1955 WHEN THE PERIOD OF FOUR-POWER OCCUPATION WAS FINALLY OVER, WHO WOULD HAVE IMAGINED SUCH CHAOS AS PRESENT ONE? ... CONFRONTED WITH WESTERN INDIGNATION, (GOVERNMENT) HAS NOW ASKED ALL PATRIOTS TO RALLY AROUND IT. INSTEAD OF DISPLAYING A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY AND BEING FRANK (GOVERNMENT) RESORTS TO EMOTIONS TOGET UNCLASSIFIED

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SUPPORT OF ITS DECISION, AND IT HAS EVEN MOBILIZED THE "UNDERDOG EFFECT." THER IS NO TALK ABOUT VITAL INTERESTS OF THE REPUBLIC, ABOUT WHO WILL BE ITS FRIENDS TOMORROW (IN AN EMERGENCY), ABOUT WHO WILL CLEAR RUINS ... AUSTRIA DOES NOT EXIST MERELY FOR THE SAKE OF "KREISKY ERA". UNQTE.

7. COMMUNIST VOLKSSTIMME, IN EDITORIAL QTE IS AUSTRIA A COLONY? UNQTE, COMPLAINED ABOUT QTE BRAZEN INTERFERENCE OF ISRAELI AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENT QUARTERS WITH AUSTRIA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS UNQTE AND ADDED: QTE WHY DID GOVERNMENT AND AUTHORITIES FOR A LONG TIME WATCH IDLY AS ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE SERVICE OPERATED IN AUSTRIA? ... A CENTER OF ZIONIST ESPIONAGE AND SMUGGLING OF HUMANS, SCHOENAU CASTLE MUST BE CLOSED AND AN END MUST BE PUT FOR GOOD TO SHADY ACTIVITIES OF ISRAELI AND AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE. UNQTE.

8. THE INDEPENDENT WEEKLY WOCHENPRESSE POINTED OUT EDITORIALY; QTE
IF WE STOP THE TRANSIT, WE ARE GOING TO INVITE THE ESRAELIS' WRATH,
ANTAGONIZE THE AMERICANS, MAKE TROUBLE FOR RUSSIANS AND BECOME
A FACTOR OF DISTURBANCE WITHOUT WANTING TO BE MORE. UNQTE.

9. IN PROVINCIAL PRESS, INDEPENDENT SALZBURGER NACHRICHTEN WROTE:
QTE IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER UNITED NATIONS WILL ACCEPT THIS
TASK. (AUSTRIAN) PROPOSAL IS INTERESTING. ALL THOSE (FOREIGN
POLITICIANS AND PAPERS CRITICIZING (KREISKY) SHOULD URGE
THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO HELP IMPLEMENT THIS PROPOSAL ... MEANWHILE,
UNITED STATES STRESSED THAT IT HAD GIVEN 50 MILLION DOLLARS FOR
MIGRATION OF JEWS FROM EASTERN EUROPE AND THAT, THEREFORE, IT IS
WRONG TO SAY THAT AUSTRIA ALONE CARRIED BURDEN. THIS IS A LOPSIDED
CALCULATION, EQUALING MONEY WITH RISK. AUSTRIA HAS BEEN ONLY
TRANSIT STATION, AND 164,000 PERSONS FROM SOVIET UNION AND OTHER
EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAVE IMMIGRATED TO ISRAEL VIA VIENNA. BUT
WORLD TODAY FORGES ALL THIS. UNQTE.

10. ANOTHER INDEPENDENT PAPER, LINZ OBEROESTERREICHISCHE NACHRICHTEN,
CONTINUED TO CRITICIZE KREISKY: QTE PROPOSAL TO PUT SCHOENAU
CASTLE UNDER PROTECTION OF UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES IS NO
(REAL) SOLUTION, BUT WOULD SEEMINGLY REMOVE BURDEN FROM AUSTRIA.
NOTHING WOULD CHANGE. WE WOULD STILL BE IN CHARGE OF SECURITY
WHILE ONLY POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY WOULD REST WITH UNITED NATIONS.
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11. GRAZ PEOPLE'S PARTY SUEDOST-TAGESPOST: QTE LET US HOPE THAT
AUSTRIA WILL BE SPARED STRAINS EVEN WORSE (THAN THE CURRENT ONE) AT
A TIME WHEN A CHANCELLOR RESIDES AT THE BALLHAUSPLATZ WHO UNDER
PRESSURE MAKES DECISIONS WITHOUT THINKING. UNQTE.

12. ALSO IN GRAZ, SOCIALIST NEUE ZEIT CRITICIZED ISRAELI PREMIRE:
QTE AFTER HER TALK WITH AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR, GOLDA MEIR COULD HAVE
RETURNED TO ISRAEL WITH A (CONCRETE) RESULT OF NEGOTIATIONS: COMMON
EFFORTS OF AUSTRIA AND ISRAEL TO PUT SCHOENAU TRANSIT CAMP UNDER
UN PROTECTION AND THUS MAKE SURE THAT IT WILL CONTINUE TO EXIST.
MRS. MEIR DID NOT ACCEPT THIS. WE WONDER WHY SHE FLEW TO VIENNA AT
ALL. SHE DID NOT MAKE A SINGLE USEFUL PROPOSAL. UNQTE. HUMES

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